

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 PC-10 USIE-00 IO-14

INRE-00 INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00

SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /173 W
----- 074063

O 291625Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9062

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO MALI (PARTICULARLY VI REGION)

REF: STATE 111565

1. GIVEN THE FLURRY OF RECENT MESSAGES ON
SUBJECT OF FURNISHING EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES
TO VI REGION OF MALI, WE WISH TO RESTATE AID'S
STRATEGY, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, SO THAT CON-
CERTED EFFORT WILL CONTINUE TO BE FOCUSED ON
MOST PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PRESSING PROBLEM.

2. TOP PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO OPENING
OF COTONOU-GAO ROUTE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
RAPID APPROVAL BY THE GOVT OF DAHOMEY
ON THE PROPOSED SHIPMENT. SUCCESS OF PILOT
RUN IS KEY TO OUR CONVINCING GOM TO DIVERT
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SOME OF ITS MAINTENANCE FLEET FOR USE ON

ANSONGO-LABBEZANGA STRETCH OF ROAD IN ORDER
KEEP IT OPEN DURING RAINY SEASON. IMPORTANT
TO NOTE THAT THE AIRLIFT REQUIREMENT CAN BE
CONTAINED BY THE DEGREE OF TONNAGE HAULED BY
THE ALMOST-READY-TO-ROLL COTONOU-GAO CONVOYS.

3. SECONDLY, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO URGE INCREASED
TONNAGE SHIPMENTS OVER DAKAR-BAMAKO RAIL ROUTE. WE
HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION AID/DAKAR'S SUCCESS
IN THIS DIRECTION AND REQUEST CONFIRMATION WITH
RESPECT TO ESTIMATED INCREASE RESULTING FROM
RECENT GOS/GOM DISCUSSIONS IN DAKAR. SPECIFICALLY,
WHEN WILL FIFTY PERCENT INCREASE OVER PRESENT
RATE (REFERRED TO IN PARA TWO OF DAKAR 2815)
ACTUALLY GO INTO EFFECT? THIS INCREASE-FACTOR
AFFECTS SHIPMENT TO DISTRIBUTION CENTERS BY ROAD
BEFORE HEAVY RAINS.

4. THIRDLY, WE SHOULD STEP UP OUR ASSESSMENT OF
ABIDJAN PORT HANDLING CAPACITY, AND, DIVERT
TO ABIDJAN MAXIMUM TOTALS OF PRESENT AND FUTURE
GRAIN SHIPMENTS. UPON RECEIPT HERE OF FIGURES
ON PROJECTED TONNAGE ARRIVALS IN ABIDJAN FOR
MALI, EMBASSY WILL QUERY GOM ON PERCENTAGE
THAT SHOULD BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO MOPTI FOR
SHIPMENT TO VI REGION BY ROAD AND POSSIBLY BY
AIR. (ON THIS SCORE WOULD APPRECIATE RATIONALE
BEHIND NEGATIVE RESPONSE CONTAINED STATE 102820 WHICH NOT RECEIVED
HERE AS CITED ABIDJAN 4172.)

5. FOURTHLY, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXAMINE AND
TEST ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURNISHING
GRAIN TO MALI AND PARTICULARLY SIXTH REGION.
LOGISTICS INVOLVED IN ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS
SHOULD BE CAREFULLY ASSESSED BEFORE BEING
PROPOSED BY USG. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH RESPECT TO
SUGGESTION CONTAINED DAKAR 2834 THAT ALGERIA-
GAO ROUTE BE UTILIZED, WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE
TO RECONCILE VERY OPTIMISTIC TONE OF DAKAR
MESSAGE WITH RATHER BLEAK OUTLOOK ON SAME
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SUBJECT CONTAINED ALGIERS 0961 DATED
MAY 6. AS INDICATED BAMAKO 1369 WE BELIEVE
ALGIERS-GAO SHIPMENT ALTERNATIVE SHOULD BE
ACTIVELY PURSUED BUT UNTIL A BETTER CONSENSUS
CAN BE REACHED ON OUR SIDE VIS-A-VIS PRACTICALITY
OF SHIPPING ON THIS ROUTE, IT SEEMS DESIRABLE
TO PUSH FORWARD VIGOROUSLY ON ALREADY AGREED-TO
PRIORITIES OUTLINED PARAS TWO, THREE AND

FOUR ABOVE.

6. WE WILL DISCUSS WITH DOUKARA ISSUES RAISED
PARA 3 REFTEL AS SOON AS HE
RETURNS TO BAMAKO END-OF-THIS WEEK. FOR PURPOSE
OF THIS MEETING WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
INFO REQUESTED BAMAKO 1369 AND BAMAKO 1381.
MCGUIRE

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Message Attributes

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